



Students celebrate

Fort Riley Elementary students learn about the history of Kansas

Page 9

Fort Riley Post

PT challenge

'Wildcats,' 'Black Lions' compete during PT

Page 12



Thursday, February 1, 2007

Home of the Big Red One

Vol. 50, No. 5

Post, Army news briefly

Discover Riley's treasures

Newcomers to Fort Riley, and those who wish to learn more about the post are invited to attend a post orientation offered by Army Community Service's relocation staff. Participants will learn fun facts, interesting information and what the Fort Riley area has to offer. Orientations will be held the first Friday of every month. The first session will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon Feb. 2.

Contact ACS - Relocation at (785) 239-9435 or site2665@riley.army.mil to reserve a seat.

Tax Center offers services

The Fort Riley Tax Center will once again offer free income tax preparation to Soldiers, their family members, and retirees. The Tax Center will help prepare and e-file federal tax returns and will also assist in preparing state returns. Persons wishing to file should bring proof of identification including social security cards for all family members along with any tax forms and a copy of last year's return.

The Fort Riley Tax Center is located in building 7434B, directly across from the bowling alley on Custer Hill. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Call 239-1040 for more information or an appointment.

BRO reunion scheduled

The 89th annual 1st Infantry Division reunion will be held Aug. 8-12 at the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis, Mo. Everyone who ever served in the 1st Inf. Div., or any unit attached to it, is invited to attend the reunion.

Details and reservation forms will be available in the spring issue of the Society's newspaper, The Bridgehead Sentinel, or after March 1 at www.1stID.org, or from: Society of the First Infantry Division, 1933 Morris Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422. Phone: (215) 661-1969.

Stay 'In Step' with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley. Tune in to Fort Riley cable channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. or watch "In Step with Fort Riley" at 5 a.m. every Saturday and at 11 a.m. most Saturdays on WIBW TV, Channel 13.

Stories planned for this week's show, which runs on WIBW TV Feb. 3 and on the post's cable channel 2 Feb. 5-11, are:

- Coverage of the visit by the Foreign Press Corps
- Sgt. Jonathan Kingman memorial ceremony
- Kansas Day activities at Fort Riley Elementary
- Interview with Chap. (Lt. Col.) Ken Haack about the National Prayer Luncheon Feb. 21.
- 4th IBCT deployment ceremony

Iraqi general visits transition training

By Spc. Stephen Baack

1st Inf. Div. PAO

Iraqi Army Chief of Staff Gen. Babaker Shawkat B. Zebari visited Fort Riley training areas Jan. 26 to observe transition team training, meet with post leaders and conduct a press conference for local and national reporters.

Babaker, who was selected as the commanding general and chief of staff of Iraqi Joint Forces in 2003, met with the commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, Maj. Gen. Carter Ham, and with Col. Norbert Jocz, commander of 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

Transition team training remains among the Army's top priorities in transferring military authority and responsibility to Iraqi Security Forces, and according to Babaker, the mission of American servicemembers in Iraq is moving toward a visible conclusion.

"The security situation clearly is most critical

inside Baghdad," Ham said. "In other parts of the country, there have been some great successes with the Iraqi Security Forces. (Babaker's) convinced that cooperation among the Americans, the other coalition members and the Iraqis can start to bring security to Baghdad just as they have in other parts of the country."

"We hope and we envision that by March '08, the vast majority of the American troops will be able to leave the country and be withdrawn, save for some bases - American bases outside the city limits - which can be used and relied upon when need be," Babaker said, through his translator.

The Iraqi general watched as TT members demonstrated close-quarters combat techniques to a group of mock ISF members at one of the post's urban cluster sites.

"This is a basic thing that they are doing here, but it is very useful because they can put that into practice in the field when they go to Iraq," Babaker said

See General, Page 3



1st Inf. Div./Baack

Iraqi Army Chief of Staff Gen. Babaker Shawkat B. Zebari conducts a press conference in a tent with local and national reporters at Fort Riley's Urban Cluster Site 2 during his visit to the post Jan. 26 to observe transition team training.

Saying goodbye



4th IBCT/Smith

Soldiers of the 4th Brigade Combat Team stand at parade rest with their company colors during the deployment ceremony Jan. 25 at King Field House. The brigade's, battalions' and companies' colors were cased at the end of the ceremony.

Post bids farewell to 4th Bde.

By Pfc. Nathaniel Smith

4th IBCT PAO

A little over a year after its activation, the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team held a deployment ceremony at King Field House Jan. 25 before a large audience of fellow Soldiers and family members.

The 4th IBCT, 1st Infantry Division, which was activated in January 2006, will deploy in early February in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During the ceremony, Brigade Commander Col. Ricky Gibbs put the significance of the Brigade's stand up into perspective.

"This is truly a historic event," Gibbs said. "A little over a year ago, the Soldiers standing before you weren't much more than an abstract concept in the Department of the Army."

The brigade is the first brigade combat team to be formed from the ground up and deployed since World War II. In January 2006, the unit consisted of nearly 600 Soldiers, now the roughly 3,500 Soldiers are headed to Iraq.

Staff Sgt. Conrad Kaluzny, a scout squad leader with the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, said the Soldiers are eager to put all of their training over the past year into action.

"I feel good," Kaluzny said. "Our men are hungry and they're ready to go."

See Deployment, Page 7

More photos

See page 7 for more photos of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's send off.

'Bulldogs' set to build up

Jocz speaks to MAC about brigade's future

By Mike Heronemus

Managing Editor, Daily Union

The "Bulldog" Brigade at Fort Riley will get its bite back, and more, with its planned reorganization beginning in February.

The reorganization will turn the 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, into a heavy, armored combat team, Col. Norbert Jocz, brigade commander, told those attending the monthly Military Affairs Council breakfast at the Courtyard by Marriott Jan. 25.

The brigade returned from Iraq about a year ago and began divesting itself of tanks, self-propelled artillery pieces, vehicles and about 90 percent of its Soldiers to assume a new mission of training U.S. military transition teams for advisory duty in Afghanistan.

Not long after it had begun that mission, the brigade was alerted to begin planning to give up its training mission, prepare for rapid growth and get ready for future combat operations.

The 3rd Brigade's transition team training cadre will move to the 1st Infantry Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Jocz said. About 100 new Soldiers have arrived to begin the 3rd Brigade's build-up to about 3,800 soldiers at the end of its stand-up period.

"By April, much of the brigade will be here," Jocz said. He expects his new leaders to arrive first - officers and noncommissioned officers. About 1,400 new families will be part of the growing brigade, but some may not relocate until after the school year

See 'Bulldogs', Page 6

1st Eng. Bn. Soldier remembered at post service



A tribute to Sgt. Jonathan Kingman Jan. 25.

By Gary Nap

In Step with Fort Riley

Sgt. Jonathan P. Kingman, a combat engineer assigned to the 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division was remembered at a memorial service Jan. 25 at Morris Hill Chapel on Fort Riley. Kingman, 21, was killed in action Jan. 20 en route to Baji, Iraq, by an improvised explosive device attack.

During the service, Staff Sgt. Oscar Alvarez recalled memories of Kingman. "He was fearless and spirited

like a child, strong and devoted like a man, and finally, he was honorable and intelligent like an elder. He had purpose, direction and motivation, and he pushed himself to the limits," Alvarez said. "He was committed to his life in every aspect. He was someone you could trust, someone you could count on. He was proud to be a Soldier. To him, it was a badge of honor."

Alvarez also remembered Kingman as a Soldier who was accepting of others. "He didn't care who you were, where you were from, how old you were. To him you were his brother," Alvarez recalled.

Chaplain (Capt.) Gary Lewis read writings from Kingman's fellow Soldiers.

"The platoon football games will never be the same without him on the line, spouting off his Ace Ventura impersonations; having the other team laughing too hard to actually run a play," one Soldier wrote about his memories of Kingman.

Kingman entered the Army in 2003 and was assigned to Fort Riley after completing Advanced Individual Training. He is survived by his wife, Melissa, three-year-old daughter, Alexis, and one-year-old twins, Jonathan and Rylee.

Post, Army news briefly

\$1000 reward offered by CID

The United States Army Criminal Investigation Command is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the armed robbery, by three unknown black males, wearing white shoes, black trousers and black hooded sweatshirts. One of the suspected individual(s) had a tattoo on his right forearm of a word written in old English lettering, beginning or ending with the letter "M."

The robbery occurred between 6 and 6:40 p.m., Nov. 5, 2006, at the intersection of Jackson and Beaugard Streets on Fort Riley.

Anyone with information concerning this incident is urged to call the Fort Riley CID office at (785) 239-3931, or the military police at (785) 239-6767.

'Blackhorse' reunion set

The 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment will hold a reunion June 14-17 in Williamsburg, Va. All former and current Blackhorse Troopers are invited to attend the event hosted by the Border Legion, Blackhorse Association.

The event will be held at the Williamsburg Hospitality House, 415 Richmond Highway, Williamsburg, Va. 23185.

For more information, contact Glenn Snodgrass at (703) 250-3064, gjs25@cox.net, or visit the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment Web site at www.11thacr.org.

Special Forces seeks volunteers

U.S. Army Special Forces is seeking male officer volunteers from Year Group '04.

Officer packets will be accepted until Feb. 15, but early submission is strongly recommended.

For more information, go to <http://www.bragg.army.mil/specialforces/>.



Ryun honored at post ceremony

Above: Maj. Gen. Carter Ham, commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, presents former Congressman Jim Ryun with a 1st Inf. Div. memento during a retreat ceremony Jan. 23 at King Field House. The ceremony was held to honor Ryun and the work he did to support Soldiers and bring the 1st Inf. Div. back to Fort Riley.

Left: Former Congressman Jim Ryun greets guests who attended the retreat ceremony held in his honor Jan. 23 at King Field House.

Photos: DISCOM/Merritt

New law changes handling procedures for troops' remains

By Sgt. Sara Wood

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — A new law that took effect Jan. 1 changes the way the remains of servicemembers killed in combat are transported and handled.

The 2007 National Defense Authorization Act states that the primary mode of transportation for servicemembers' remains being returned to the U.S. is military aircraft or military-contracted aircraft. This is a change from the past, when commercial service was used to transport the remains of fallen troops.

"It was a provision in the law, and I think ... there was some interest to make sure that the remains were moved in an expeditious manner," Air Force Col. Michael Pachuta, director of policy for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, said in an interview.

Every servicemember who dies in a theater of combat is transported by military aircraft to Dover Air Force Base, Del., for processing and burial preparation, Pachuta explained. This law changes the way the remains are transported from Dover to their place of burial.

In a memorandum to senior military leaders, Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England wrote that this change is to ensure the transportation of fallen servicemembers is given priority. England instructed the military services and departments to work together to ensure air transportation arrangements are handled properly and efficiently.

The law also directs that an honor guard escorts servicemembers' remains from Dover to their final resting place. The servicemember's next of kin can request that commercial air transportation be used for the remains, or that the honor guard not escort the remains, Pachuta said.

Another recent change giving more recognition to the remains of fallen servicemembers is the use of honor covers on coffins, Pachuta said. The honor cover is a reinforced cardboard cover that fits on top of the airline industry's standard air tray for coffins. The cover is embossed with an American flag, and the Defense Department seal on both ends.

The idea for the honor covers, which the Army has been using since October, came from feedback from family members and military members who had escorted remains, Pachuta said. "Our intent certainly is to make sure that those handling the remains along the way understand that this is a fallen servicemember and certainly should be handled expeditiously but also with care and respect," he said.

The Army designed the honor covers in cooperation with the Air Transport Association, so they are standardized throughout the airline industry, Pachuta said. The covers are not used more than once and are treated to make them waterproof. When the remains reach their final destination, the honor cover is removed and an American flag is placed over the coffin, he said.

Garrison offers workforce development training

By Todd K. Douglass

Workforce Development Office

In partnership with Education Services and Barton County Community College, the Fort Riley garrison commander provides a new education and training program for civilian employees on post.

In an effort to improve employee satisfaction and increase developmental opportunities for Fort

Riley employees, the Employee Satisfaction Improvement Team developed and implemented the initiative to make this opportunity a reality. This education program is designed to provide managers and supervisors with an additional tool to improve employee basic competencies and help employees continue their education.

Employees who participate receive fundamental training in communication, writing, leadership, basic human resources, cus-

tomers service, work ethics and motivation. Benefits to participants are two-fold: Increased skills and therefore greater productivity and three college credits awarded by Barton County Community College.

The organization benefits directly from the increased production level of the employee because of their increased competencies. The organization also benefits directly and indirectly as a result of positive motivation

generated primarily from a sense of belonging and commitment due to the investment the organization has made in the employee's education and development.

Each series of 6 classes take place over a three-month period. This means that while employees are participating in this developmental program they will be in training for just two days each month. This should serve to minimize the strain on the organization due to their absence from the work place and thus encourage

supervisors and managers to continue to enroll their employees in this and future similar programs.

Future plans are to provide a "follow on" to this course by offering a pre-leadership course which will follow the same format.

The garrison commander is encouraging all Fort Riley activities to play an active role in their employee's development and extends an invitation to all Fort Riley activities to have their employees participate.

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5x9 KSU Cont. Ed. Evening Coll

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1x4 Spectrum Pet Care

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1x4 Lakeside Marine Jan TP

Post, Army news briefly

GC to address workforce

The garrison commander's address to the civilian workforce will be held Feb. 6 at Barlow Theatre, Bldg. 7866 on Custer Hill. Sessions will be held at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Parking is available at the theater, but car-pooling is suggested.

Post offers suicide prevention classes

The Fort Riley Suicide Prevention Program will conduct Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training classes monthly now through March. Classes are scheduled Jan. 18-19, Feb. 15-16 and March 8-9.

The two-day classes will be taught in the basement classroom at Riley's Conference Center from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. For more information, call Charles E. Jackson, Fort Riley suicide prevention training coordinator, at the Family and Soldier Support Center, 239-9434 or 239-1012.

ASAP offers training

The Fort Riley Army Substance Abuse Program conducts monthly classes for Soldiers in the rank of sergeant and above who have been selected by unit commanders to assist them as an ASAP subject matter expert. During the certification process, Soldiers learn how to administer the Unit Biochemical Testing program, assist commanders in briefing new unit personnel regarding ASAP policies, procedures and services, and how to develop, manage and facilitate the ASAP prevention education program to their Soldiers. Classes are scheduled Jan. 24-25, Feb. 21-22, March 21-22, April 25-26, May 23-24, and June 13-14.

The Unit Prevention Leader Certification Course has a rigorous two-day curriculum with a required final test to achieve UPL certification. The course will be taught from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each scheduled day at the Digital Training Facility in Building 7285. For information on the Unit Prevention Leader Certification Course or how to enroll Soldiers for the class, call Clyde Saltee, Fort Riley UPL training coordinator, at 239-1928 or 239-4151.

Soldiers sought for officer program

The Army ROTC at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana seeks talented young enlisted Soldiers who want to earn baccalaureate degrees. Quality enlisted Soldiers with officer potential who have served at least two years on active duty can voluntarily participate and enroll in Army ROTC through the Green to Gold Program. For more information, call the university at (877) 863-4768, send email to arotc@uiuc.edu or visit www2.uiuc.edu/unit/army-rotc/ on the Web.

Army needs broadcasters

Active duty authorizations for Army broadcast specialists – Military Occupation Specialty 46R – will increase over the next three years, and Soldiers interested in cross-training into that MOS are needed. About 50 percent of Army broadcasting positions are overseas in American Forces Network outlets. Soldiers cross-training into the MOS will learn television, radio, announcing and writing skills while learning a very civilian-marketable job skill. Eligible Soldiers include those on active duty in any MOS and Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers in other MOS's who want to enter active

duty. Soldiers must be in grades E-1 through E-5 and be non-promotable. They must have a 107 General Technical score and hold a secret or interim secret clearance. They must be deployable, although most Soldiers with P2 profiles will qualify. For more information, send email to goose.guzior@us.army.mil or call DSN 221-2578.

Laundry services provided on post

The laundry Drop Off/Pick Up Point for services provided by PENN Enterprises, Inc. is located at Building 229, the old commissary, on Custer Avenue. Hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. These services are offered to all military personnel for cleaning of most Central Issue Facility items and are turned around within three days. When CIF items are cleaned using PENN's services, a clearing Soldier need only present their laundry receipt for CIF to automatically accept the equipment.

University offers lateral entry

Qualified individuals with prior military service or members of the National Guard or Army Reserve who wish to become an officer may be able to achieve that goal through the University of Illinois Army ROTC Lateral Entry Program. The Lateral Entry Program allows eligible students to contract into the Reserve Officer Training Corps as cadets when they are academic juniors, seniors or graduate students with four semesters of course work remaining before graduation. For more information, call the university at (877) 863-4768, send email to arotc@uiuc.edu or visit www2.uiuc.edu/unit/army-rotc/ on the Web.



1st Inf. Div./Back
Iraqi Army Chief of Staff Gen. Babaker Shawkat B. Zebari, center, watches as Transition Team training advisers demonstrate urban operations techniques during his visit to a Fort Riley training area Jan. 26 to observe TT training. While there, he also met with post leaders and conducted a press conference for local and national reporters.

General continued on page 1

of the training. Anytime a country's highest ranking military officer visits training it's important, Ham said. "In this case it's particularly important for him to see the training that's on going for the advisers because it's his soldiers that we're advising," Ham said, adding that the general gave the trainers good insight, tips and advice on the training along with strong encouragement to continue. One piece of advice Babaker offered U.S. military leaders was to remain focused on relations with Iraqi citizens. "Mostly he's asked to make sure that we continually emphasize the importance of understanding the cultural environment in which our advisers and our Soldiers are operating, so that they can be more effective in their missions inside Iraq," Ham said. "I am confident that the Iraqi army will be a very powerful, very strong, very capable army in the near future, and it will be a great friend of the American people and military," Babaker said. "We will be with you Americans shoulder-to-shoulder in enforcing the rule of law – not just in Iraq – even outside of Iraq. And, terrorism has to be eradicated through the cooperation that exists between you and us."

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3 x 12"
Black Only
3x12 Faith furn

HOME DEPOT-ARM FORCES COMM.
3 x 10.5"
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Foreign journalists get look at Fort Riley

Spc. Shaina Howard
1st Inf. Div. PAO

Journalists from 22 foreign media outlets got a first-hand look Jan. 23-25 at what Fort Riley is doing to help support the Global War on Terrorism.

During their visit, which was organized by the Army and the State Department Foreign Press Center, journalists got to see transition team training, interview Soldiers from the Combat Aviation Brigade, learn a bit about Fort Riley's history and see the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team deployment ceremony.

The tour was set up as part of the State Department's public diplomacy efforts to inform international media about U.S. policies.

While participating in TT training, journalists received full-Army treatment, which included attending briefings, wearing Kevlar helmets and flak vests, dining on Meals Ready to Eat, and trying out some of the simulators themselves.

The journalists' first event at Fort Riley took them through a mock Iraqi village where they followed Soldiers during a teach-and-advise mission for transition team members.

"Walking through the snow with all this gear on was much harder than I thought it would be," said Jan Tromp, a reporter with The Volksrant of the Netherlands. "I don't know how (the Soldiers) can complete a mission with all their gear on in this weather."

Lt. Col. Mike O'Neill, 1st Brigade deputy commanding officer, gave the journalists a briefing on what transition teams go through during their training at

Fort Riley.

"We try to give the (Soldiers) training that will be as close to the real thing as possible. We want them to see everything here first before they get in country," O'Neill said.

At the Humvee rollover simulator, journalists were invited to take a roll.

"Being able to go through the rollover simulator gives me a whole new look on how U.S. forces are trained," said Karin Assmann, a reporter from Germany. "It looked easy when they did (it). I just couldn't get the door open."

"This training is real. The trainers here at Fort Riley really know what they are training. They know what to look for in Iraq," said Nasser Hssaini, a reporter for Al-Jazeera television.

Journalists also got tours of the language lab and the improvised explosive device static display. Along with talking to TT Soldiers and trainers, they also spent time talking with Maj. Gen. Carter Ham, commanding general, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley.

Besides witnessing training, journalists got a look at Fort Riley's history when they received a guided tour of the Cavalry Museum and spoke with retired 1st Sgt. Albert Curley. Curley, a Junction City resident and the area's only remaining Buffalo Soldier spoke to the group about his enlistment in 1940 and his 28-year career as a Soldier in the 9th (Horse) Cavalry.

"When I joined the Army, blacks could only enlist at Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth," Curley said about his experience.

"Fort Leavenworth's quotas were filled, so I came here."

From the Cavalry Museum the group headed to the Commanding

Public affairs NCO offers media guidance to Soldiers

Master Sgt. Jack Lee
1st Bde. PAO

In case you haven't seen the news lately, Fort Riley is currently a hot news item, not only because of the build-up of post personnel and upcoming deployments but also because of transition team training.

What this means is that more and more media are interested in Fort Riley. Recently, 35 foreign print and broadcast journalists from 22 media outlets descended on post.

With the journalists came requests for interviews. Maj. Gen. Carter Ham, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley commanding general, Col. Jeffrey Ingram, 1st Brigade commander, and various 1st Bde. battalion commanders spent face-time in front of the camera. However, once the media started visiting the various TT training sites, it was all about interviewing the Soldiers.

Urban Cluster 1, training area 1, was the officer-in-charge. Capt. Barry Williams, 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor, who briefed the foreign journalists.

"I have no issues with talking to the press," Williams said. "I stayed in my lane and only talked about what I knew."

If media visiting the post have a Public Affairs Office representative with them. That way, you'll know its official and the media are allowed to be here. If you are approached by a media outlet and there's no PAO rep with them, direct them to your chain-of-command for the information they seek.

Normally, it's the PAO rep who will set up the interviews. If you are approached by media and don't want to be interviewed, you have the right to say no.

The camera can be intimidating, but the PAO rep will assist you with the interview and stand beside you for assistance. Ask for guidance ahead of the interview.

Some basic guidance:

1. **Stick to your lane.** If you are a M-240 crew served weapons instructor, that's what you should talk about.
2. **Listen to the question carefully.** If

there's something you don't understand, say so and ask them to repeat the question. If you don't know the answer, say so.

3. **Stick to the facts.** Don't speculate on events or give your opinion.

4. **If you make a mistake, ask to start over.** News crews want a good sound bite, so they will gladly start over.

5. **Be yourself.** Let your personality show through the uniform.

6. **Many people look at someone in uniform as the official spokesperson;** that's why you need to stick to things you know.

7. **Remember SAPP** - Security, Accuracy, Policy and Propriety.

The media have a job to do and want to tell the story correctly. Your job is to answer their questions accurately by staying in your lane of expertise.

Williams welcomes the media. "With the media coming out to my training sites, the hard work of the trainers, transition team members and role players are highlighted and all get the recognition they deserve," he said.

General's Mounted Color Guard stables where they learned the history of the CGMCG, received a stable tour and rode around Main Post in the mule wagon.

To end their tour of Fort Riley, the journalists met with Soldiers from the Combat Aviation Brigade, interviewed Garrison Commander Col. Thomas Smith about the impact of Fort Riley on the local area, and attended the 4th IBCT deployment ceremony where they had a chance to interview deploying Soldiers and their family members.

Fort Riley PAO Intern Julie Mitts, contributed to this story.



Foreign journalists watch and film as transition team members use the Tactical Iraqi language program during a language class. As part of their training, the TT Soldiers learn basic Arabic and Dari. The journalist were on post Jan. 23-25 to cover TT training.

1st Inf. Div./Howard

Foreign radio journalists capture a combat lifesaver trainer on tape as he explains what to do if a casualty can not breathe. The journalists, from 22 different media outlets visited Fort Riley Jan. 23-25 to see transition team training. The journalists tour was set up as part of the State Department's public diplomacy efforts to inform international media about U.S. policies.

1st Inf. Div./Howard



Kansan takes on Al-Jazeera

Julie Mitts
PAO Intern

Freelance cameraman and Kansan native Clay Kappelman now has Al-Jazeera Arabic to add to his list of credits.

Kappelman, who hails from Lawrence, Kan., spent three days filming with an Al-Jazeera correspondent during the foreign press visit to Fort Riley. Their coverage focused on transition team training and the integration of Iraqi-American role players into the training.

The TV network, headquar-

tered in Qatar, has more than 40 million viewers in the Middle East. Kappelman said many international news outlets find and hire freelancers instead of using their own cameramen.

"Today, cost is a consideration," Kappelman said. "They rely on us to avoid the complications of bringing a full broadcast crew."

Kappelman has been working in broadcast television for 20 years. He has also filmed for NBC, CNN, and the Military Channel. This was his first experience with Al-Jazeera, and he said the press visit went smoothly.

"There were some Iraqi-American role players who chose not to be on camera," Kappelman said. "We absolutely respected their wishes."

He said Al-Jazeera's bad reputation in the American press "couldn't be more wrong."

This was not Kappelman's first time filming a story at Fort Riley, but he said it was the most extensive.

"Fort Riley is an impressive place," Kappelman said.

Kappelman's clips will air on Al-Jazeera Arabic in the near future.

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Commentary

Thursday, February 1, 2007

Fort Riley Post

Page 5

Riley Roundtable

This week's question:

What do you think about all of the media coverage Fort Riley has received lately?



"It's been very informative, it's keeping the public abreast of what's going on and it's keeping the youth aware of the military."

Dock Bullard
Retired Army staff sergeant
Home: Junction City, Kan.



"For the community it shows that a lot of families will not have their Soldiers with them for a while. It makes people aware and empathize with them."

Michelle Cray
Army spouse
Home: Alma, Ga.



"The coverage here is a good thing, but I don't like when they broadcast where the troops are downrange."

Staff Sgt. Tomeko Eaddy
Physical therapist assistant
610th BSB
Home: Florence, S.C.



"When the media is involved in the home front, it's a good thing to keep people aware and to support the troops."

Capt. Diana Colon
Social worker
610th BSB
Home: Wakefield, Kan.



"For the most part, they put it in a positive light, but it's also good for the Soldiers because it lets them know someone is taking an interest in them."

Air Force Capt. Joe Uzpen
Physician assistant
Transition Team Class 13
Home: Dayton, Ohio

Letters to the editor:

The Post welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not contain any libelous statements or personal accusations. Letters accepted for publication must include the writer's full name and a phone number where he or she can be reached.

Letters may be edited to fit space but never edited to change the writer's viewpoint. Send letters to anna.morelock@riley.army.mil or fax them to 239-2592.

Maj. Gen. Carter F. Ham Commanding General

Fort Riley conducted a wonderful ceremony to recognize the Soldiers and families of the 4th Brigade Jan. 25 as they prepare for their upcoming deployment.

Regrettably, the Kansas winter weather precluded an outdoor ceremony, so I made the decision to conduct the ceremony at King Field House with only a small representative contingent from each deploying unit "on the



Maj. Gen. Carter Ham

door due to space limitations inside the field house. For this, I am deeply sorry.

field" rather than the entire brigade. My decision resulted in some Soldiers, family members and folks from our local communities being turned away at the door due to space limitations inside the field house. For this, I am deeply sorry.

Command message

CG expresses regret to community, family members

Latest Dope

Drug-promoting candy could end up in Kansas

By Clyde Sallee

ASAP Prevention Specialist

It's illegal to possess or smoke marijuana, but many convenience stores across the country are now selling pot-flavored lollipops and other candies, marketed as Chronic Candy. This candy tastes like marijuana.

I personally have not seen any for sale in Kansas in my search, but that does not mean it will not reach us or be put on the shelves of our stores in the near future. The sweets contain no drugs, but they do use hemp essential oils and are marketed with themed names like "PurpleErtle," "Blue Haze" and "Rasta" lollipops.



Clyde Sallee

Chronic candy and other marijuana-flavored products are a threat to our

The candy contains no THC, the main psychoactive ingredient in marijuana, but its suggestive marketing and the packaging says

"every lick is like taking a hit." These products can easily catch the attention of teens and young adults.

Chronic candy and other marijuana-flavored products are a threat to our youth in my opinion because it gives the false impression that marijuana is fun, safe and now acceptable.

In response to negative publicity, Chronic Candy's CEO responded in a statement that the candy is "100% legal," noting that the company markets the candy to those over the age of 18.

Chronic Candy is packaged with images of bright green marijuana leaves on the wrappers. Other gear and accessories associated with the candy and its use can be bought from the same vendors.

As a reminder to Soldiers and civilian employees at Fort Riley, the ingestion of hemp seed oil or

products made with hemp seed oil of any kind, is strictly prohibited by Army Regulation 600-85, and any urinalysis test containing hemp oil is considered to be a positive with the same punitive actions required.

In my opinion, no matter what you call it, merchants should not sell, support or promote any product that could encourage drug use among our youth.

So, the next time you see your child or teen with a lollipop you may want to take a closer look.

For information on Chronic Candy, call the Army Substance Abuse Program Prevention Services at 239-1928 or 239-5047.

Safety notes

Safety office reminds drivers to be cautious

By Alex Bender

Installation Safety Office

The cold season is here, and Fort Riley soon will turn into a winter wonderland. Snowflakes, sledding, snowmen and snowball fights can be wonderful, but driving on snow and ice usually is not.

Privately owned vehicle accidents are the No. 1 killer of Soldiers, and POV accidents increase during winter months.

Before Jack Frost starts nipping at the roads, make sure you are not driving toward danger. Have your vehicle thoroughly inspected by a mechanic. Change the oil according to the manufacturer's recommendations or every three months or 3,000 miles. In extremely cold weather, use winter-grade oil that has a low viscosity, such as 5w-30. This will help with starting during low temperatures.

Keep your vehicle gas tank at least half full to prevent the fuel line from freezing and ensure there is enough gas if you are stranded.

Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials usually are sufficient for most road conditions in winter driving. Inspect their condition and maintain proper air pressure in them.

Keeping your vehicle in good condition decreases the chance of being stranded in cold weather.

During or after a winter storm, the safest way to avoid vehicle accidents is to stay off the roads. If driving is necessary, allow for delays by leaving ample time to arrive safely at your destination. A 30-minute trip may take an hour – or longer – in adverse weather.

Clear the windshield and other

windows of all ice and snow before starting the vehicle. Give your vehicle enough time to warm up and make sure all windows are defrosted before driving.

On the road, be aware of other drivers at all times. Leave plenty of distance for stopping. Even if your vehicle is engineered for adverse driving conditions, you still may have trouble coming to a complete stop in snow, sleet or rain.

Do not get stuck in a winter storm without a winter safety kit; it could help you out of a slippery situation. The kit should include a blanket, a small shovel to dig out snow, a container of sand or kitty litter to improve traction, a flashlight, a first-aid kit, jumper cables, an ice scraper, brightly colored cloth to signal help and a tow strap. A cell phone or a citizen's band radio will allow you to call for help, if necessary.

Some safety rules apply to all seasons. Alcohol slows a driver's reaction time, which can be more deadly while driving on dangerous winter roads. Never drink and drive.

Avoid driving when drowsy. Driving drowsy can be as dangerous as driving drunk.

All passengers should wear seat belts. Buckling is a good safety practice, and seat belts are required by Kansas Law 8-25 and Fort Riley Regulation 190-5.

For more safety information, visit the Installation Safety Office Web site at www.riley.army.mil/services/fort/safety.asp or call the Installation Safety Office at 239-2514.

What's happening in your unit?

The Post wants to publicize interesting and informative articles about all organizations at Fort Riley. Call the editor at 239-8854. Let's talk.

Grunt By Wayne Uhden



FORT RILEY POST

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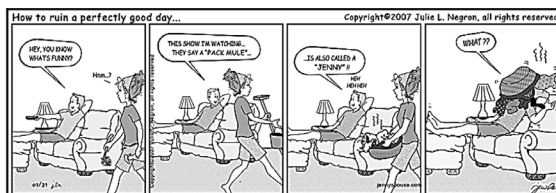
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Jenny
THE MILITARY
SPOUSE



Infantry Ball returns to Fort Riley

By 1st Lt. Edward Ziembinski
1st Bn., 16th Inf.

With the return of the 1st Infantry Division to Fort Riley, there has been an influx of infantrymen to the area. Besides the need for more housing and training, the return of the infantry Soldiers also meant the return of the Infantry Ball Jan. 20.

The last Infantry Ball at Fort Riley was held in 1996, the year the 1st Inf. Div. left for Germany. Now that the "Big Red One" has returned, it seemed only natural that the infantry communities get together in a celebration of reunion and fraternity.

Battalions in attendance at the Infantry Ball included 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry and 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry.

Members of the newly formed Big Red One Chapter of the National Infantry Association were also in attendance to bestow eight officers and noncommissioned officer with the Order of Saint Maurice and two women with Shields of Sparta.

The Order of Saint Maurice is awarded to individuals who have served the infantry community with distinction, have made a significant contribution in support of the infantry and have the highest dedication to duty and honor. The Shield of Sparta is awarded to spouses who have played a great role in support of the infantry.

...

Maj. Gen. Carter Ham, commanding general of the 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley presented



Courtesy photo
Maj. Gen. Carter Ham, commanding general 1st Inf. Div. and Fort Riley presents the Order of Saint Maurice to officers and noncommissioned officers Jan. 20 at the Infantry Ball.

awards to the following individuals:

Order of Saint Maurice:

Civis level – for civilian supporters who have made significant or outstanding contributions to the infantry.

- John Montgomery, Montgomery Communications

Primicerius level - the highest level, for those who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the entire infantry.

- Col. Edward Burke, retired
- Command Sgt. Maj. Michael McCoy, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf.

- Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Love, 1st Bn., 41st Inf.

Centurion level – the middle level, for brigade and battalion officers and noncommissioned officers for outstanding contribution to the infantry.

- Maj. David Wood, 1st Bde.
- Sgt. Maj. Steve Murphy, 1st Sqdn., 4th Cav.
- Sgt. Maj. Randy Waddell, 2nd Bn., 16th Inf.
- Capt. Thomas Laybourn, 1st Sqdn., 4th Cav.

Shield of Sparta:

- Phyllis Love
- Joan Shelton

HOUSE FILL AD

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3 x 8"
Black Only
3x8CNB02/01POSTAD

‘Bulldogs’ continued from page 1

ends, he guessed.

The "Bulldogs" won't man the same kind of brigade they brought back from Iraq, Jocz said. The new brigade will be a heavily armed combat team capable of sustaining itself in any operation because it will have all the needed support units in-house - communications, medical, maintenance, supply, reconnaissance and artillery.

Before, as a heavy armored brigade, some of that support had to be requested from brigades commanded by another colonel, he explained.

The big guns the brigade gave

away when it returned from Iraq will return to Fort Riley with the build-up, just not as many Abrams tanks or Paladin self-propelled howitzers as before, Jocz said.

However, the brigade will beef up its firepower with more Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles and 120mm mortar carriers, he added. It will have some heavy "farming" equipment, too, he joked, referring to the armored and tracked engineer equipment that will be part of the brigade's support battalion.

Eventually, the 3rd Brigade will reflag as the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Jocz con-

firmed, but he was unsure of the proposed date.

When that happens, the brigade will change from the "Bulldog" Brigade to the "Dagger" Brigade. Jocz started his talk standing in front of a photo of 3rd Brigade's mascot, Chester V, an American bulldog. He assured people in the audience that the mascot would stay with the brigade, but would also be "reflagged" as "Dagger."

Brigade Command Sgt. Maj. James Savitsky pointed out that Chester's middle initial is "D."

Superbowl party
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Deployment

continued from page 1

The brigade eased its colors during the ceremony for the journey into a combat zone. According to Army tradition, units heading to combat ceremoniously unfurl their flags during an event at home. Later, when they reach their destination, the Soldiers have another ceremony to unfurl the colors.

Standing before a large American flag at the field house, the 4th IBCT Soldiers encased the

brigade, battalion and company guidons.

For some Soldiers, their eagerness to go overseas and fight for their country was intense.

"I feel good about it," said Staff Sgt. Adam West, a section sergeant from Troop B, 1st Sqdn., 4th Cav., who has previously deployed to Kosovo and Honduras. "We are ready to go and do our job."



PAO/Blackmon
A daughter greets her father after the 4th IBCT deployment ceremony Jan. 25 at King Field House



PAO/Blackmon
Family members mingle with their 4th Brigade Soldiers after their deployment ceremony Jan. 25 at King Field House.



4th IBCT/Smith
The guidons and colors of the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team are dipped while rendering honors during the unit's deployment ceremony Jan. 25 at King Field House.

Guardsman heads out with team 12

Master Sgt. Jack Lee
1st Bde. PAO

Fort Riley seemed quiet at 9:45 p.m. Jan. 24, except at Craig Gym where Soldiers from Transition Team 12A spent their last hours on post manifesting to catch a plane.

One of those Soldiers was Master Sgt. Joe Cistaro, an Illinois National Guard Soldier. "We're an embedded transition team and will go to an infantry brigade in Afghanistan," Cistaro said in between making cell phone calls, talking to team members and eating snacks provided by the American Red Cross and the Lady Troopers of Junction City.

No stranger to mobilizations, this is Cistaro's fifth, but first to Afghanistan. "I just hope that the small part I play in the larger picture will have some positive effect on our nation's security," he said.

Cistaro is leaving 5-year-old twins at home in Chicago while he deploys.

One of his last calls of the night was to them. "Be sure to say your prayers every night and pray for our Soldiers," he told the children.

A mounted police trainer with the Chicago Police Department, Cistaro joked that in his spare time he would train camels for police duty.

"We're trained, confident and ready to go," he said as he made his way to be weighed and see if his bag would fit in the wooden box sized for carry-on luggage.

Cistaro's 16-man team is made up entirely of Illinois National Guard Soldiers, one a fellow Chicago policeman. "We're going to watch out for each other," he said, carrying on the tradition from the streets of Chicago - and Soldiers everywhere.

Right: Master Sergeant Joe Cistaro balances himself on the scales used as part of the manifest process. Weighing in at more than 300 pounds, Cistaro said he knows there's a job to be done, and he's ready to go do his part.

1st Bde./Lee



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LOWSHI
1 x 3"
Black Only
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Army program allows wounded warrior to serve again

By Elaine Wilson

Fort Sam Houston PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas - Jorge DeLeon may have lost a leg in the war, but he never lost the desire to serve his country.

Two years after his military aspirations were crushed by an anti-tank mine, DeLeon is back in Army service - this time as a Department of Defense civilian.

The former sergeant is the second civil service employee hired at Fort Sam Houston through the Army Wounded Warrior Program, and the first amputee.

The program, dubbed AW2, is designed for Soldiers severely wounded in the Global War on Terrorism. AW2 provides infor-

mation and assistance to aid Soldiers and their families through the recovery process and beyond, from medical evacuation to reintegration into the work force.

"We continue to work closely with managers to locate employment opportunities at Fort Sam Houston that match the skills of the many wounded warriors in our area," said Sharon Ferguson, director of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. "Commanders and managers are encouraged to use all available tools to provide employment opportunities for these courageous Soldiers."

DeLeon, the newest edition to the Fort Sam Houston Police Department, is now at work as a radio operator.

"I'm very happy to be working here," DeLeon said. "I'm not doing exactly what I want, but it's close."

DeLeon would have preferred to remain a Soldier. The 33-year-old joined in 2001 after eight years on the police force in Puerto Rico. He deployed four times in five years; however, he wasn't injured until the last.

The former infantryman deployed to Afghanistan in April 2004, with the 25th Infantry Division out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Just a few weeks in country, DeLeon and his unit were on their way back to camp after a patrol through the region. DeLeon was driving a Humvee, the lead vehicle of the convoy.

As they neared the camp, the sergeant noticed a strange sight, a funeral in progress in the middle of the desert, not far from the entrance to the base. "Usually, no one is out there. But, that day,

there were more than 50 people at a funeral. I immediately thought something was wrong."

DeLeon told the lieutenant in the Humvee his suspicions, and at that moment, the Humvee ran over an anti-tank mine.

"It was like slow motion," he said. "The Humvee lifted about 12 feet in the air before it fell."

The dashboard crushed DeLeon to his seat. His fellow Soldiers raced to pull him out. As he lay on the ground, he felt no pain - until he looked down. The bone on his left leg protruded from his skin. His right leg was gone.

"Then the pain hit me. I was conscious the whole time. On the way to the hospital, all I could think about was my wife and kids," said the father of three children ages 5, 3 and 1. "I didn't want to die."

Having taken the full brunt of the mine, DeLeon was the only one injured in the explosion.

He underwent a long, painful recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. His desire to stay in the Army and the support of his family kept him on the path to recovery. He finished his treatment and was soon on his way back to Schofield Barracks to join his unit - under one condition. He had to pass a PT test.

Fitted with the latest prosthesis, a computer-controlled leg, DeLeon could walk, bike, drive, do just about anything - but run. Despite extensive running training at Brooke Army Medical Center, he was unable to pass the test and was medically retired in March.

"I really loved the Army, loved the pride of the infantry," DeLeon said. "I'm able to do anything in my mind and heart, but my disability prevents me from doing it all."

Disappointed his military dream was over, DeLeon turned

to a former passion - law enforcement. An eight-year veteran of the force prior to the military, DeLeon tapped into his experience and applied for a job with the police department at Fort Sam Houston.

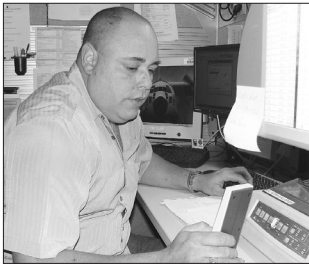
Between his military and police experience, disability aside, DeLeon was a perfect fit. He started working as a radio operator last month.

"He's doing a fine job," said Master Sgt. Troy Brumley, DeLeon's supervisor. "His background in law enforcement is a real asset. If we get a few more like him, we won't turn them down."

Ferguson said she'll continue to encourage wounded warriors to apply.

"We're pleased with our success thus far, but recognize there are many more positions that can be filled with wounded warriors," she said. "Our experience is the brave warriors with whom we have worked truly exemplify the AW2 vision."

Jorge DeLeon operates a radio at the Fort Sam Houston Police Department. Fort Sam Houston PAO/Wilson



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Black Only
2x4.SHRBlock01/24New

STANDARD PLUMBING
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Fort Riley Community Life

Thursday, February 1, 2007

Home of the Big Red One

Page 9

Community news briefly

Prayer luncheon scheduled

The Installation and Division Chaplains' Offices will host the National Prayer Luncheon from 11:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 21 at Riley's Conference Center.

In addition to a simple luncheon of meat balls, chicken wings, egg rolls, mini-sandwiches, trays of cold vegetables, fruit and cookies, the program will include special music by the Phil and Pam Morgan Gospel Music Ministry. The Chief of Chaplains, Maj. Gen. David Hicks will be the guest speaker.

The serving line will open at 11:15 a.m., with the program slated to begin at noon and end at 1 p.m. A suggested donation of \$6 to assist with the cost of the luncheon may be paid at the door.

For more information about the event, call the Installation Chaplain's Office at 239-3559.

BOSS offers sing-a-grams

Express your love for that special someone in your life or just embarrass a friend with a BOSS Sing-A-Gram! Sing-A-Grams will be delivered Feb. 12-14 in the Fort Riley, Junction City and Manhattan areas.

Packages available are:
\$20 - balloon and candy
\$25 - balloon, candy and a song

To purchase a BOSS Sing-A-Gram, call 239-5614.

ESC sets game night

The Enlisted Spouses Club will hold Bunco at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 20 in Building 259. The activity is open to all ESC members. Please bring \$5 for prizes and a snack to share with everyone. If you don't know how to play Bunco, come out and learn. For more information, contact Amy Scarpulla at 717-2753 or ascarpulla@gmail.com.

Chaplains offer retreat

Walk through the Old Testament from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 3 at Fort Riley's Main Post Chapel. Presenter Chap. Terry Hayes will provide insight and understanding of the Bible in a fun and creative way. Free childcare and is available for children 6 weeks to 5 years old. To sign up for the retreat, contact Don Ericson at 239-0979 or e-mail don.ericson@riley.army.mil.

Daytona 500 on at bowling center

Come watch the Daytona 500 at 2 p.m. Feb. 18 at the Custer Hill Bowling Center and the Strike Zone Snack Bar & Grill will open at 2 p.m. and Extreme Bowling will begin at 4 p.m. and continue until 7 p.m.

Enter to win a Dale Earnhardt Jr. racing jacket with every adult combo meal or large pizza purchased on Feb. 18. Winner must be at least 18 years of age. For additional information contact 239-4366.

Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 every day at 6:30 a.m., 8 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

USD 475 offers screenings for preschoolers

By Vicki Ohmacht
Child Development Center

A free developmental skills check offered by Unified School District 475 not only helps parents prepare their child for kindergarten but also may detect early delays in development.

Conducted monthly in Junction City, the free screening takes about two hours as children complete fun, age-appropriate tasks in

five developmental areas: motor, language, cognitive, social and self-help development. The screenings are conducted by early childhood education-certified teachers, nurses, paraprofessionals and speech therapists, and focus on educational areas that would not be addressed in an annual physical with a pediatrician, said Jennifer Blair, special education program coordinator.

"All children should have the

opportunity to be screened," she said. "A lot of parents bring their child the year before kindergarten to make sure they are ready, and ask what kind of things to work with over the summer, and that's fine. We love it when we can say, 'Johnny is doing great, just keep doing what you are doing.'"

If it is determined a child has developmental delays, the screening may allow for parents and professionals to provide support

and help strengthen foundation skills before the child enters school, Blair said.

Staff members meet with parents at the end of screening as well as mailing a written summary to the home. If the team does not recommend further referrals, the parents are given specific ideas to improve their child's abilities.

"We see a lot of children come in that don't score well on the

motor part, but typically, that is lack of experience. On the test, three- and four-year-olds are supposed to be able to do some cutting skills, and when we go over it with the parents, they say, 'You want me to give my three-year-old scissors?'" Blair said. "This isn't a child that needs occupational therapy, this is a child that needs to have some opportunities to use scissors under supervision. If they

See Screenings, Page 10

Happy birthday

Students celebrate 146 years

By Anna Morelock
Editor

On one side of the hallway, Fort Riley Elementary students gathered in a classroom in front of an apron-clad volunteer churning butter. Across the hall, students crawled on a bison pelt spread across the floor and ran their hands through the thick fur. In the gym, students do-si-doed their partners round and round.

All of these activities and more were part of the school's celebration of Kansas's 146th birthday Jan. 29. Volunteers came Jan. 26 for the school's celebration to teach students fun facts and history about the state.

Linda Berges, a kindergarten teacher whose room was turned into the butter churning room for the day, said the kids always look forward to the day of activities.

"They always seem to enjoy all the different presenters," Berges said. "They go from station to station and listen to all the different information."

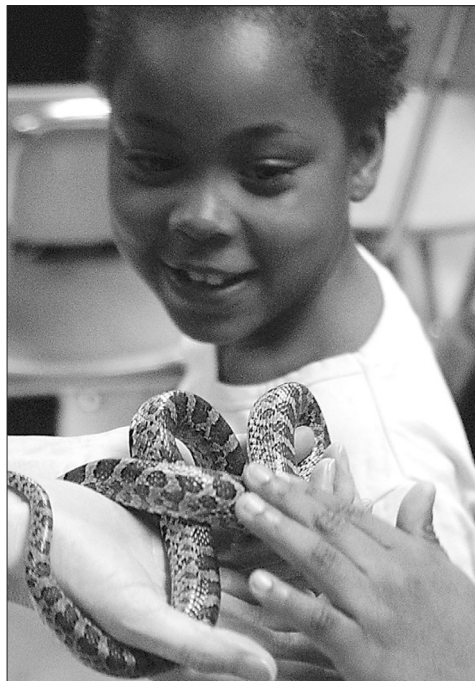
Some of the other activities included bread making, storytelling and spinning.

Parent Colleen Wright came to demonstrate spinning to the kids. Sitting in front of her spinning wheel and a table piled with unspun fibers, Wright walked the students through the process of carding the fibers and turning them into yarn. The kids got to handle different types of fibers and even try their hands at carding.

"They definitely are interested in the different fibers...They like the softer fluffier things," Wright said of the students' reactions when she showed them angora and silk fibers.

Wright first got into spinning when she attended a state fair with her children.

See Kansas Day, Page 11



A Fort Riley Elementary student looks on with a smile as one of her fellow students pets a Great Plains rat snake during the dangerous animals of Kansas demonstration at the school's Kansas Day activities Jan. 26.

Post/Morelock

1st Bde. groups support families

Brigade's FRG, Rear "D" help with deployment issues

By Spc. Shaina Howard
1st Inf. Div. PAO

Just as many Soldiers look to their families for support during their military career, families often look to family readiness groups for support in military life. The 1st Brigade Combat Team's FRG is ready to do just that.

For the past several months, 1st Bde. Soldiers have been manning the rear detachment desks at the Soldier and Family Support Center on Custer Hill.

The 1st Bde. rear detachment and FRG enhance the military missions of deployed transition team, security force company and 1st Engineer Battalion Soldiers by providing support, outreach and information dissemination to family members at home. The goal of the groups is to create a sense of mutual support within 1st Bde. and to empower families to thrive before, during and after deployments.

The FRG is a formally recognized and sanctioned volunteer group of unit family members and loved ones, supported by unit officers and enlisted personnel. The rear detachment is used to link families together and help them support each other during deployments.

"This is the largest rear detachment in the Army," said Col. Jeffrey Ingram, 1st Bde. commander. "With this program we can have spouses talking to other spouses

See FRG, Page 10

Habitat for Humanity thanks Soldier volunteers

By Mike Heronemus
Managing Editor, Daily Union

Habitat for Humanity leaders served ample amounts of smiles and heaping portions of "thank you" with the sloopy joe dinner honoring Soldier volunteers Jan. 23.

The fourth annual Habitat dinner shined a spotlight on many of the Fort Riley Soldiers who helped build the fourth Habitat home in Junction City. About 70 Soldiers of the 610th Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, spent seven weekends helping erect the Jimmy and Pamela King home.

Mark Edwards, who organized the Habitat group about five years ago, said the home will be finished so the King family, including children Cordarron, Jimmie Jr., Cartavius and Tevin, could move in by the end of February.

The dinner was planned for January because the 610th BSB

Soldiers expect to deploy to Iraq in February.

Soldiers and other Habitat volunteers worked in bad weather most of those weekends. Edwards joked that the civilians working on the project would have probably packed up and gone back home those days if the Soldiers hadn't been so determined to get the job done despite Mother Nature.

"Junction City has been really good to us," said Lt. Col. Rob Weaver, battalion commander, "and we thought this was a good way to give back to the community."

The Soldiers, whose military skills range from vehicle and electronics repair to fuel handling, helped with just about everything from clearing the lot to framing and sheet rocking, said Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Eddie Fields.

Some of the soldiers brought civilian construction experience

See Habitat, Page 10



Habitat for Humanity's Mark Edwards (right) hands mementos to members of 610th BSB, their children and members of the Jimmy and Pamela King family Jan. 23. Habitat honored the Soldiers for their help in building the fourth Habitat home, which the Kings will move into by the end of February.

Daily Union/Heronemus





Community news briefly

'Right arm' night set

Give your "Right Arm" a night of pampering with wings and beverages at Fort Riley's Right Arm Night Feb. 8 at Rally Point. The fun will begin at 6 p.m. and is open to the public.

Call Rally Point at 239-8161 for additional information.

Dinner for two offered

Give your sweetheart a Valentine gift to remember at Riley's Conference Center Sweetheart Dinner and Dance from 7 to 11 p.m. Feb. 17.

The \$50 fee includes dinner for two, champagne and dancing.

A DJ will provide romantic music throughout the evening. A cash bar will also be available.

For tickets call Riley's Conference Center at 784-1000 or Information, Ticketing and Registration at 239-5614. The last day to purchase certificates is Feb. 9.

Super Bowl party set

Invite your friends to Rally Point for Super Bowl Sunday and leave the preparing and cleaning up to someone else.

Rally Point is offering free admission to watch the 41st Super Bowl on their four 100-inch TVs.

The doors will open at 3 p.m. Feb. 4 to start airing the pre-game show. For more information contact 784-5733.

Family workshop offered on post

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families for Army Families provides much-needed framework for applying universal, self-evident principles that enable family members to better communicate about their problems and solve them successfully.

The workshop will be offered on Feb. 27 and 28 and March 1, 6 and 7 and will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Riley's Conference Center.

Free limited-child care will be available on site with early registration (immunization records required).

For additional information or reservations contact the Family Advocacy Program at 239-9435 or e-mail, site266@riley.army.mil.

Mothers Outreach program back on track at Fort Riley

By Frank J. Smith
Special to the Post

The Junction City Military Affairs Council, Matlock-Johnson Real Estate and Junction City Wal-Mart joined economic forces and purchased more than \$450 in newborn supplies for the Fort Riley Mothers Outreach Program Jan. 22.

Designed to support the children of junior enlisted soldiers, Mothers Outreach provides a bundle of supplies, including a blanket, booties, a pacifier, diapers, socks, a wash cloth, an outfit and literature on successful parenting, to the mother of each "junior enlisted" infant born at Irwin Army Community Hospital.

For many years, military spouse volunteers ran the program using funds obtained from a vari-

ety of non-profit organizations located on Fort Riley. However, recent changes in funding regulations and the rising cost of infant supplies have caused the program's organizers to seek new funding.

According to the Mothers Outreach Director Edith Nolan, the program was nearly bereft of funds when it was rescued by Sam Robinson, director of Junction City's Military Affairs Council.

Always on the lookout for ways that Junction City can partner with Fort Riley to create a greater overall community, Robinson found a willing cohort in Col. Dawn M. Smith, IACH commander. Smith facilitated the partnership between Mothers Outreach and the Junction City Military Affairs Council.

"All I did was watch the magic



Stan Drake, co-manager, Wal-Mart; Sam Robinson, director, JCMAC; Edith Nolan, director, Mothers Outreach; and Cindy Fourhman, wife of 1st Inf. Div. command sergeant major pose for a photo after filling their cart Jan. 22.

happen after putting two outstanding organizations in touch with each other," Smith said. "Now, due to Junction City's farsighted civic leadership, the generosity of

Matlock-Johnson Real Estate and Wal-Mart, and the commitment of Fort Riley's volunteers, we have put back on track a program that our younger Soldiers truly need.

"It is another prime example of how dedicated the tri-city region is to making Fort Riley and the 1st Infantry Division part of Kansas," Smith added. "This type of community building is exactly why military families will compete to come here and why they will choose to stay during deployments and after retirement."

This initial purchase marks the beginning of a long-term relationship between the Junction City Military Affairs Council, local businesses such as Matlock-Johnson Real Estate and Wal-Mart, and the Mothers Outreach Program.

The Military Affairs Council is working to expand its list of business partners and will continue coordinating with Mothers Outreach to make sure the program maintains its vitality as Fort Riley's population grows.

Screenings continued from page 9

score poorly on a section because of this, we encourage the parents to provide opportunities for practice and to bring the child back in a few months if they still have concerns."

Parents are given the opportunity to authorize further evaluation if the team finds developmental delays. Free programs are available to provide support for these families before kindergarten.

Supports continue throughout school if needed.

"Even if a child is going to continue to need support when they go to kindergarten, we are already familiar with the child's needs and we schedule a transition meeting with the kindergarten staff, so everything is in place to help the child be successful," Blair said.

The program screens between 20 and 25 children each month although there is no limit on appointments, Blair said.

The screenings are open to any parent living in the school district. Blair estimated about 70 to 90 percent of the children are from Fort Riley.

Karen Stuber, a Family Child Care administrative assistant, had her four-year-old daughter, Jessica, screened to better prepare her

for kindergarten.

Jessica attends the Warren Road Child Development Center and Stuber had no concerns about her daughter's development before the screening. Jessica had an annual checkup less than three months ago with her pediatrician, but her mother feels Jessica will be better prepared for kindergarten as a result of the screening experience.

"It showed me some different things to work with Jessica on that I hadn't thought of before," Stuber said. "You teach them ABCs, how to write their names, but you don't think about these other things."

Jessica had difficulty understanding different meanings of words and symbols and the free screenings will allow time to work with Jessica in those areas before school, Stuber said.

"Jessica didn't know what 'beside' meant. I always say 'next to' and not 'beside.' She needs to know these other words, too. You also don't think to teach them the difference between a 'cross' and a 'plus sign,'" she said. "It's a good program. I'm glad it's open to the public and it's free. I think every child should be screened, whether

there is a problem or not. You will be surprised at what your kids know and what your kids don't know."

"I've never had a parent say they wish they hadn't had their child screened," Carole Hoffman, Warren Road CDC director, said.

"At first, it's a sense of worry for the parents, but every parent that has ever gone through the actual screening process is always glad they did, and that's whether they find a delay or not. If they don't find anything, the parents feel reassured but they have also learned something about their child's development."

"If they find a delay or disability, the parents are glad because they can start intervention quickly. Studies show that the younger a child is when delays are found, the better chance they have of catching up," Hoffman said. "As a parent with a child who had delays, you have to get over that initial fear that there is going to be something wrong. The screenings are just a way for all the professionals and all the people working with the children, to include the parents, to either be assured there are no delays or if there are, to start intervention."

Upcoming screening dates are Feb. 16, March 16, April 20 and May 11. For more information, call 717-4752.



CDC/Ohmacht

Renee Rook, adaptive physical education teacher, tests motor skills development by skipping with four-year-old Jessica Stuber.

FRG continued from page 9

who are in the same position. It helps the spouses gain a better knowledge of what their husbands (and wives) are doing overseas."

Before deployment, the FRG forms a network of families and military personnel to help families prepare for deployment and help ensure all arrangements are complete.

During mobilization or deployment, the network helps to support families. The FRG and the military work together to help families get what they need.

Servicemembers are better able to concentrate on their duties when they don't have to worry about family matters, said Capt. David Shaffer, 1st Bde. rear detachment commander.

More info:

For more information on the 1st Bde. rear detachment and FRG visit www.riley.army.mil/Units/1BCT11D/RearDet1Bde.asp or call 239-5125 or 239-1599.

"You just can't fight effectively if you are worried about what's happening on the home front," he said. "The family readiness group is essential to providing that security of knowing that your family is taken care of."

Habitat continued from page 9

to the job, said Sgt. Andrew Davis, an electronics repairman in the battalion. While he enjoyed the two sloppy joes stuffed with meat, potato chips, carrots, a soda and dessert, he said, "It was neat to see what all goes into building a house" and that he would happily volunteer to build another Habitat home.

First Lt. Matthew Mattison, the

battalion's liaison officer to Habitat for Humanity, indicated that was how most of the Soldiers who volunteered for the project felt. The Soldiers enjoyed working on the home so much, some of them worked the weekend before they left Fort Riley for a month of exercises at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., he said.

Soldiers weren't the only Fort Riley volunteers who worked on the Kings' new home. "Some of the kids helped, too," Weaver said, "so it turned into a family event for some of the military families."

Editor's note: This story first appeared in the Jan. 24 issue of the Junction City, Kan. Daily Union.

SUNFLOWER BANK- JC
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GEARY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
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Community news briefly

Bereavement support offered

Homecare & Hospice will be conducting a five-week bereavement support group for adults in the Manhattan area who have lost a loved one.

The support group entitled "From Loss to New Life" will provide support and education to individuals moving through the grief process due to the loss of a loved one in the recent or distant past. The group is designed to be a safe and confidential environment to share one's thoughts and feelings regarding loss as well as a place to work together to understand the grieving process.

The "From Loss to New Life" group will meet twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Homecare & Hospice conference room located at 323 Poyntz Ave. in Manhattan. The group will begin meeting Feb. 20 and end March 15.

Attending the group is free of charge and Homecare & Hospice will provide all necessary materials.

For more information, call Dan Clayton, social worker, at (785) 537-0688 or (800) 748-7474.

Scholarships offered

2007 Fort Riley Combined Scholarship Campaign, Fort Riley College/Vocational Scholarship applications are now available.

The Fort Riley Combined Scholarship Committee (FRSC) offers undergraduate college and vocational school scholarships to Fort Riley affiliated high school seniors, current college/vocational students, and spouses of active, retired, or deceased military members.

Applications are now available through local high schools, online at www.riley.army.mil, or can be requested by e-mailing fortrileyscholarship@hotmail.com.

The deadline for applications is March 10.

For more information, contact Juliet Follansbee, FRSC chairperson, at 784-9927 or fortrileyscholarship@hotmail.com.

Kansas Day

continued from page 9



Post/Morelock

Colleen Wright shows students how to spin fibers into yarn Jan. 26 at Fort Riley Elementary School. The demonstration was part of a morning full of activities to celebrate the 146th birthday of Kansas.



Post/Morelock

Soldiers from the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard show a Civil War-era uniform to students during the school's Kansas Day activities Jan. 26.

"I was in the alpaca tent and I saw somebody (spinning) and I just thought it looked so cool," Wright said. "It just really struck me as an interesting hobby, so I took a course and went from there."

After being approached several years ago by a teacher who had learned of her unusual hobby, Wright began volunteering to share her skills with the elementary students.

Wright's daughter Elaina, a fifth-grader at the school, said one of her favorite activities of the day was the dangerous animals display set up by the Fort Riley Conservation Office.

During the demonstration, students learned about dangerous

snakes and spiders found in the area, and even got to meet a few of the dangerous animals, such as a copperhead snake, bull snake and a timber rattlesnake.

Anna Morelock can be contacted at anna.morelock@riley.army.mil or 239-8854.

MIDWEST FURNITURE GALLERIES

3 x 12"
Black Only
3x12FullColor02/01 remodeling

HOUSE FILL AD

TYME OUT
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1 x 2.5"
Black Only
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COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS-MANHAT
1 x 2"
Black Only
1x2Countrywide01/21 Jennifer

Edge Unlimited
2 x 2"
Black Only

KPA
2 x 4"
Black Only
CHUCK HENRY

MWR
4 x 6.5"
Black Only
FULL COLOR4x6.5MWR01/28 DANCE



Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Page 12

Home of the Big Red One

Thursday, February 1, 2007

Sports news briefly

Nature classes offered

A Kansas mammals class will be offered from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 9 at the Outdoor Recreation Center. The class will be presented by staff from the Milford Nature Center and will teach participants the basics about some of the mammals that live in Kansas. Animal ambassadors will be on hand for the class, as well as some beautiful animal skins.

A class on hazardous animals and plants on Fort Riley will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Feb. 24 at the Conservation Office classroom, Bldg. 1020 Huebner Road. Participants will learn about some of the hazardous plants and animals found on Fort Riley. The class will feature the instructor feeding live snakes during class time. The class is limited to 20 participants.

For more information contact the Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg. 9011, at 239-2363 or 239-6368.

Dodgeball tournament set

Come knock yourself out at the Fort Riley Dodgeball Extravaganza.

The fun will begin at 9 a.m. Feb. 10 at King Field House. The tournament is open to all active duty and local civilian teams. Participants must be at least 18 years old.

Sign-up begins Jan. 22 at the Sports Office located in King Field House, Building 202. The registration fee per team is \$60. Dodgeballs are available at King Field House for those wishing to improve their skills before the big day.

New fitness center hours

Beginning Feb. 1, the King Field House, Robinson Fitness Center and Craig Fitness Center will have the following hours:

Mon.-Fri. - 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday & Holidays - 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Also beginning Feb. 1, Long Fitness Center will close for use, but the pool located in Long Gym will remain available for use until renovations at Eyster Pool are completed.

MATHIS LURKER REAL ESTATE
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'Wildcats,' 'Black Lions' pair up for PT challenge

By Laura Stroda

The Daily Union

and

Pfc. Nathaniel Smith

4th IBCT PAO

For a chilly hour Jan. 19, Kansas State University football players got to personally experience what Soldiers do every day - physical training.

The Wildcats competed in a physical training challenge with the "Black Lion" Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment. The college players wore desert camouflage over their K-State purple mock turtle-necks. Instead of combat boots, they wore football cleats. Other than that, the players were just like Black Lion Soldiers. They carried 35-pound rucksacks and M-4 rifles and had to keep up with the Soldiers on the three-mile obstacle course.

The football players paired up with Black Lions in teams of about eight and competed to see which team finished the fastest. It took most teams about an hour. The winning squad came in at just under 50 minutes.

But the competition wasn't so much about seeing if the football players could keep up with the Soldiers. It was about how much the two groups have in common. "What you do out there on the



football field really isn't that much different from what we do on the battlefield," said Col. Ricky Gibbs, commander of the 4th Bde.

Pfc. Tyeth Wheeler, a Black Lion infantryman, said the Soldiers and football players were

about equally conditioned, but they had different kinds of athleticism.

"They have a lot of quick-burst energy, and we had a lot of endurance from all the training we go through," Wheeler said.

Whether built for speed or built for the long haul, the football players and Soldiers worked together to ensure everyone completed the course.

The teams began the challenge running with their gear strapped on for one and a half miles over trails and through the woods.

After dumping their rucks, the teams ran another half-mile, and then carried two team members for yet another half-mile.

Following the buddy carry, teams worked together to carry a 25-pound Humvee tire for half a mile to a small trailer. After placing the tire on the trailer, the groups pulled the trailer through a motor pool.

With the end in sight, the teams had to negotiate a series of obstacles that included a rope, cargo net and wall climb.

The Soldiers performed better on the ruck portion of the course while the football players were better suited for the buddy carry, Wheeler said.

Sgt. 1st Class Floyd Koger, a platoon sergeant with Co. D, felt there were lessons to be learned on the course.

"It teaches you not to leave your comrade behind," he said. "You're only as fast as your slowest man."

Koger said other lessons learned included taking care of teammates during the tire carry, working together while moving the trailer and having faith in each other during the buddy carry.

"Today the Soldiers learned something and the football players learned something," he said.

The lessons the Kansas State football players learn from Coach Ron Prince are similar to the way the Black Lions want to develop unity among the troops, said Lt. Col. Patrick Frank, 1st Bn., 28th Inf. commander.

"When Coach Prince came in, he immediately started talking about leadership," Frank said.

"Since his father was a non-commissioned officer, he has lived this same type of spirit his whole life: leadership, developing leaders, honor, integrity," Frank said. "When you see K-State take the field, it's not single guys running out of the tunnel, they come out as a team."

"It's very impressive to watch K-State and how they look at the

team concept," he said.

This isn't the first time the Black Lion battalion has teamed with the Wildcats. Frank said earlier this year, K-State recruits and their parents visited Fort Riley for a quick tour of "what the Army is like." Soldiers from the 1st Bn., 28th Inf., escorted the group around post and, by the time they left two hours later, "the parents were hugging our Soldiers. That's how tight of a bond they developed just in those few short hours," Frank said.

Football is nothing new to the Black Lions either. The regiment has a national "Black Lion Award" program that recognizes football players who personify the unit's core values of leadership and teamwork.

"Really, the core of the partnership is about leadership, Coach Prince developing leaders on the football field and Black Lions developing leaders in combat," Frank said.

Coach Prince elected to participate in the program this year, but he hasn't named his Black Lion Award winner yet, Frank said.

See Challenge, Page 13



Daily Union/Stroda

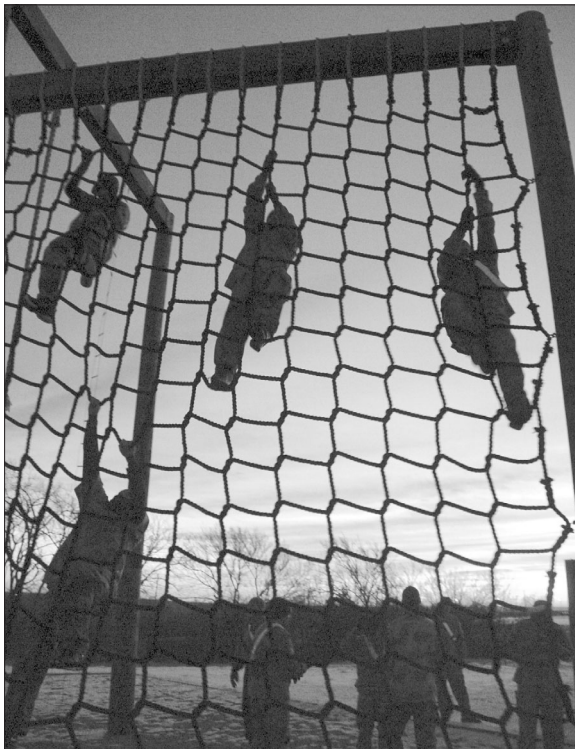
K-State Football Coach Ron Prince readies his players for morning PT with the 1st Bn., 28th Inf. Black Lions Jan. 19 at Fort Riley.

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Black Only
stop smoking

KPA
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Gas Thieves

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John Murdock
2 x 8"
Black Only



Daily Union/Sroda
Black Lion Soldiers and Wildcat football players climb a rope wall Jan. 19 during their early-morning PT challenge.

Challenge continued from page 12

About a dozen high schools across Kansas participate in the program and hundreds of football teams across the nation — from Pop Warner youth leagues to NCAA Division I schools like K-State.

The Black Lion Award is in honor of Maj. Don Hollender, a former West Point All-American

defensive end who was killed in combat in Vietnam while rescuing wounded Black Lion Soldiers.

"He was a hell of a football player," said retired Brig. Gen. Jim Shelton, the battalion's honorary colonel. "I played football at University of Delaware and we went up to scrimmage (Army). I must have tackled him 20 times. It was like trying to tackle a horse."

Shelton and retired military Chaplain Wes Geary, the battalion's honorary chaplain, watched the Soldiers and players in action Friday. Geary said that many people in America today don't feel much attachment to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Things like today, these are things that help (the players) feel like they're part of it," Geary said.

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STATE FARM INSURANCE
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THE COLUMBIAN THEATER
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Black Only
2x7 Columbia

Classified Raster:
3 x 21.25"
Black Only





Sports news briefly

Bowling center goes back to 50s

Enjoy old-time music and prices all night long and relive a historic decade at Nifty Fifty Nights at Custer Hill Bowling Center, beginning April 3.

Enjoy prices from the 50s with 50-cent hot dogs, shoes and games. Each bowler only pays a \$2 participation fee!

Come relive the 50s every Tuesday night at Custer Hill Bowling Center!

Baseball teams forming in JC

An information and interest meeting will be held for the Junction City Junior Baseball Association at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Junction City High School cafeteria.

Teams will be forming for kids 9 through 14 years of age. Tryout dates will be announced at the meeting Feb. 11. If selected, there will be a \$100 fee per player and out of town travel is involved. For more information call Jim Poole at 238-6332, Larry Morgan at 761-9470 or James LeClear at 209-1991.

Set goal to trek Kansas at gym

Exercise from one side of Kansas to the other during the Walk/Run/Bike Across Kansas.

The goal is to exercise the 415.18 miles from Ruleton, Kan. to Kansas City, Kan. by March 31 at any post gym.

Exercise activities must be completed indoors with proof of mileage readings. Miles are tracked at the front desk after each workout (notebook provided). A staff member must verify all distances. PT indoor mileage can be included.

The exercising began Jan. 3 and will run through March 31. Participants who reach 415.18 miles by March 31 will receive a custom Fort Riley t-shirt.

For more information, contact the Fitness Department at 239-2813 or 239-3146.

Eagle watching scheduled

Spend a morning watching bald eagles, an endangered species, in and around Fort Riley.

Eagle watching tours are scheduled from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 10 and 17. Participants will meet at the Outdoor Recreation Center, Bldg. 9011 Rifle Range Road. A \$5 fee for transportation will be charged.

The event is outside, so participants should dress according to the weather. Participants are encouraged to bring cameras and binoculars to view the birds and preserve memories of the trip.

Participants should register no later than the day before the tour by calling 239-2363.

Spring soccer season set

Spring soccer season is just around the corner and parents can begin signing up their children starting Feb. 5.

Participants will be divided into the following age groups: Kindergarten & 1st grade
2nd and 3rd grade
4th and 5th grade
6th through 8th grade

The registration fee is \$30 for the first child and \$24 for each additional child enrolled.

All children wishing to participate in spring soccer must be enrolled through CYS and their yearly \$18 (up to \$40 maximum per family) registration fee paid.

All participants must have a sports physical form on file, dated on or after May 19, 2006. For more information, or to pick up the registration form, visit Central Registration, Bldg 6620 or call 239-4847. Interested individuals can also call Youth Sports at 239-9223 or 239-9200.

Schumacher captures Titus Trophy

By U.S. Army Racing

CHICAGO, Ill. - With pre-season testing but two weeks away, U.S. Army NHRA Top Fuel driver, Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher, is still being reminded of his dramatic 2006 world championship season.

Schumacher received the prestigious Jerry Titus Memorial Trophy Jan. 13 in Indianapolis from the American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association (AARWBA), which is the organization's Driver of the Year award.

"What an evening it was," offered the Chicago-area resident. "Winning the Jerry Titus Trophy is definitely a big moment in my career. The list of past winners is unbelievable. To now be included in that circle is just awesome."

Schumacher became the fourth drag racer to earn AARWBA's top honor, joining Don Prudhomme (1976), Shirley Muldowney (1982) and John Force (1996, 1999, 2000, & 2002). Muldowney

was the only previous recipient from the Top Fuel class.

"Of course, I'm honored to join that elite group of NHRA Titus winners," he added. "What's especially pleasing is that my sponsor, the U.S. Army, won this award for the second time. They were on Prudhomme's Funny Car in 1976."

"This is clearly the result of the hard work and determination that my U.S. Army team put in throughout last season. Without their never-say-die attitude, we would not have come back from 336 points down. The Titus Trophy is as much theirs as it is mine."

In honor of Schumacher, the Titus Trophy will go on display at the Wally Parks NHRA Motorsports Museum in Pomona, Calif. It will be showcased there beginning with the NHRA's annual "Night of Champions" Feb. 9.

"Before we get to enjoy that evening in Pomona, we've got some work to do out at Phoenix



Courtesy photo

U.S. Army NHRA Top Fuel driver, Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher, received the prestigious Jerry Titus Memorial Trophy from the American Auto Racing Writers & Broadcasters Association in Indianapolis Jan. 13.

(Firebird International Raceway) in two weeks," said Schumacher, a four-time NHRA Top Fuel world champion. "I think we're all looking forward to pre-season

testing after an enjoyable off-season. I'm certainly anxious to make that first quarter-mile pass of 2007."

Nature's engineers shape their world

By Alan Hynke

Fish and wildlife biologist

Beavers do more to shape their landscape than any other species of wildlife. Fascinating for their engineering qualities, these mammals are literally capable of changing a stream's course.

From the rise of the stream, fish frogs and herons benefit, creating a small wetland. As the trees are cleared and a dam created, the stream is transitioned to a wet savannah type habitat.

If ample food is available, a beaver family may inhabit the area for many years. When food becomes scarce, the beavers will move to a new location. The dam will deteriorate, leaving a uniform layer of silt that soon gives rise to green meadow and eventually to new forest.

Not so long ago, beavers were referred to as "trapper's gold." During the fur trading era (1800-1840), adventurous men risked the elements and Indian attacks to get their hands on a beaver. Fur trading was literally the cata-

On the Wildside:

News About Nature

lyst that opened the frontier. Beaver trapping, in particular, played a large part in the settlement of the western United States. The soft leather and dense fur resulted in an excellent clothing material.

Individual beaver pelts were important bartering items. Common equivalents for one tanned and stretched beaver pelt were two pounds of sugar, a gallon of brandy, two yards of flannel, a pair of breeches, a pair of shoes, 20 flints, eight knives, two pairs of looking glasses, two hatchets, 20 fish hooks or a blanket.

Four tanned beaver pelts would fetch a pistol and 11 beaver pelts could be traded for a musket. The demand for beaver pelts was so great during the late 1800s that beavers came close to extinction in North America.

After the decline in the fur trade, beavers began to grow in numbers and were considered a nuisance by many, particularly to farmers.

Although fur trapping contin-

ued in the 20th century, beavers were able to rebound over most of North America with harvest restrictions in place. While most fur prices have dropped in recent years because of low demand, the drop in the value of beaver pelts has not been as drastic.

The beaver is a member of the family rodentia, which is group of mammals that gnaw. They use their four front teeth, big chisel-edged incisors, to fell trees. It takes only a few minutes for this determined animal to cut down a small willow tree. Sometimes a beaver will tackle trees as wide as two feet.

The beaver's favorite trees are the softwoods like aspen, poplar and willow. It also will cut down birch, sugar maple, wild cherry, alder and sometimes hemlock and pine. The beaver uses the felled trees as building materials and food.

Beaver pairs mate for life. The two will live together unless one of them dies. The female gives birth in the spring, usually litters of two to six kits.

Their incisor teeth grow continually throughout their life, so they must continuously gnaw.

Beavers range in weight from 30 to 80 pounds with some weighing more than 100 pounds. One of the largest beavers trapped in Kansas was just north of Fort Riley and weighed 109 lbs.

Beavers are well adapted to move on land and in water. They are able to hold their breath for up to 15 minutes under water. The large back webbed feet are good for swimming and the smaller paws in front are used for picking up branches, mud and debris.

Beavers do not hibernate. Their thick coat is a necessity in the winter when pond water freezes over.

The scaly black tail is hard and flat and is used as a prop to sit on when the beaver is gnawing and as a rudder while the beaver is swimming. When a beaver senses danger, he will slap his tail on the water's surface as an alarm.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD - MANHATTAN
2 x 4"
Black Only
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HARRAH'S PRAIRIE BAND CASINO
4 x 10"
4cd0 Full Color Harrah's

CINEMA 12 / MANHATTAN, KS
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CLASSIFIEDS



Travel & Fun in Kansas

Page 16

Home of the Big Red One

Thursday, February 1, 2007

Leisure time ideas

ITR helps plan get-aways

The Information, Ticketing and Registration office in Building 6918 at Fort Riley has lots of travel information, and the staff can help set up brief trips and longer vacations.

Here's a sampling of what ITR has to offer:

Rolling Hills Zoo – Located amidst the rolling hills of western Saline County, this section of Kansas prairie has been transformed into a beautifully landscaped zoological park. Discount tickets are now available through ITR.

Silver Dollar City – Childhood dreams come to life at Silver Dollar City with adventures beyond your wildest imagination. Buy your adult ticket and get a child's ticket free.

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Black Only

Little Britches Sale
6 x 7"
Black Only

Podcasts describe Kansas past

KSHS

Kansas Territory was a dangerous place to live.

To illustrate just how hazardous it was, a new series of podcasts from the Kansas Historical Society features readings from the original writings of those who came west.

The Kansas Memory podcasts launched Jan. 10, using collections from the Historical Society's Library and Archives.

Many of the dramatic readings were written by famous and infamous Kansans. Others were written by average folks.

In the first podcast, the letters of Cyrus K. and Mary Holliday, John Brown, and Sene Campbell describe the real threats experienced by those involved in the events of "Bleeding Kansas."

Upcoming segments feature reminiscences of Marcus Freeman about his life as a slave, his owner in Kansas Territory and a \$200 reward poster for runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad in Kansas Territory.

More info:

The Library, Archives and Museum are located at the Historical Society's headquarters.
**6425 SW Sixth Avenue
Topeka Kan. 66615-1099
Phone: (785) 272-8681
Web site: www.kshs.org**

Kansas Memory podcasts will be published alternate Wednesdays.

Subscribers to the podcasts can visit the Historical Society's web site at www.kshs.org/audiotours/ or go to their favorite podcast directory.

The letters, documents, and photographs used in the initial episodes of the podcasts can be viewed online at the Historical Society's territorial Kansas digital

documents repository at www.territorialkansasonline.org.

The Kansas Historical Society's Cool Things, also published alternate Wednesdays, was among the first museum podcasts.

First launched last April, the Cool Things at the Kansas Museum of History podcast has grown in popularity and in December was named number one in a MuseumPods voter survey.

The Library and Archives is open 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is free.

The Museum is open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, \$3 for students and there is a \$1 discount for Kansas residents.

KSHS, Inc. members, current military, and children under five are admitted free.

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KPA
2 x 2"
Black Only
Cummins

WILDCAT PET RESORT
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Museum opens creative place

Kansas State University

The Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art at Kansas State University is partnering with Target for The Creative Place Gallery.

The special gallery will be open Jan. 16 to April 20 at the museum.

The Creative Place Gallery provides a space for children to learn about, create and exhibit their art, said Kathrine Schlageck, Beach Museum of Art education and public services supervisor. Funds from Target will help to pay for art supplies and exhibition expenses. Programs are offered for

free to educational and social services organizations.

"Children using The Creative Place last semester included area school children, The Boys and Girls Club of Manhattan and homeschool groups."

Schlageck said. "Last semester they learned about printmaking. This semester the focus will be on landscapes, artists' use of perspective and creative writing."

For more information about The Creative Place Gallery, contact Schlageck at (785) 532-7718 or drop by the museum, 14th Street and Anderson Avenue, on the southeast corner of the campus.

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2AmFamily01/12

CANDLEWOOD HEALTH MART PHARMAC
2 x 2"
Black Only
2x2Candlewood Health1/3.t f

MILITARY OUTLET
2 x 3.5"
Black Only
2x3MilitaryOut01/04.t f